Catechiſm

FOR

CHILDREN.

To which is added,

Another for the Inſtruction of thoſe that are to be admitted to the Lord's Supper.

ISAIAH XXVIII. 10. *Precept muſt be upon Precept, Line upon Line.*

By MATTH. HENRY.

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I Should not have thought of drawing up much leſs of publiſhing this little Catechiſm, with its Appendix, if I had not been ſolicited to it by ſome of my Friends, whoſe Judgment and Advice I have a great deal of Reaſon to put a Value upon.

The Children into whoſe Hands it is deſigned to be put, are ſuppoſed to have learn'd the Creed, the Lord's Prayer, and the Ten Commandments, thoſe firſt Forms of ſound Words; and then, perhaps, ſome Time ſpent in this may prepare them afterwards to improve by the Fulneſs and Accuracy of the Aſſembly's Catechiſm, with which this doth very little interfere; and therefore, (which I hope) it will not be ſuſpected of a Deſign to ſuperſede.

Whether ſuch a Catechiſm as this be ſo needful, as ſome have ſaid they think it is, I know not; however, I hope it may be uſeful to ſome; and therefore I am willing to let it go abroad and the Bleſſing of Heaven go along with it.

It is God's Promiſe, That all ſhall know him from the leaſt even to the greateſt. That that Promiſe may be fulfilled, and all pious Endeavours for the propagating of Chriſtian Knowledge, crowned with Succeſs, is my Heart's Deſire and Prayer.

July 7th 1700. MATTH. HENRY

A plain Catechism for Children.

PART. I. Of God and the Scriptures.

Q. 1. *WHAT must you do in the Days of your Youth?*
A. I must remember my Creator.

Q. 2. *Who is your Creator?*
A. The great God that made the World.

Q. 3. *Who is your Preserver?*
A. The same God that made me, preserves and maintains me, and in him I live, and move, and have my Being.

Q. 4. *What are you made and maintained for?*
A. To glorify God.

Q. 5. *What do you believe concerning this God?*
A. I believe that he is an infinite and eternal Spirit, most Wise, and Powerful, Holy Just and Good.

Q. 6. *How many Gods are there?*
A. There is but one God.

Q. 7. *How many Persons are there in the Godhead?*
A. Three; the Father, and Son, and Holy Ghost; and these three are one.

Q. 8. *What is your Duty to this God as your Creator?*
A. It is my Duty to fear and honour him, to worship and obey him, and in all my Ways to trust in him, and to please him.

Q. 9. *What*

Q. 9. *What is the Rule of your Faith and Obedience?*

A. The Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Teſtament, which we call the Bible.

Q. 10. *What is the Excellency of that Book?*

A. It is the Word of God.

Q. 11. *What Uſe will it be of to you?*

A. It is able to make me wiſe to Salvation.

PART II. *Of our Miſery by Sin, and our Redemption by Chriſt.*

Q. 12. *WHO were our firſt Parents?*

A. Adam and Eve, from whom we are all deſcended.

Q. 13. *What Condition did God create them in?*

A. Holy and happy.

Q. 14. *How did they loſe their Holineſs and Happineſs?*

A. By their Diſobedience to the Command of God, in eating the forbidden Fruit.

Q. 15. *What Condition are we all born in?*

A. Sinful and miſerable.

Q. 16. *How do you perceive your Condition to be by Nature ſinful?*

A. Becauſe I find I am naturally prone to that which is evil, and backward to that which is good, and Fooliſhneſs is bound up in my Heart.

Q. 17. *How do you perceive your Condition to be by Nature miſerable?*

A. Becauſe I find myſelf liable to many Troubles

Troubles in this Life: And the Scriptures tell me, I am by Nature a Child of Wrath.

Q. 18. *What would become of you then without a Saviour?*

A. I ſhould be certainly loſt and undone for ever.

Q. 19. *Who is it that ſaves us out of this ſad Condition?*

A. Our Lord Jeſus Chriſt, the only Mediator between God and Man.

Q. 20. *Who was Jeſus Chriſt?*

A. The eternal Son of God.

Q. 21. *What did he to redeem and ſave us?*

A. He took our Nature upon him, and became Man.

Q. 22. *What Life did he live in that Nature?*

A. A Life of perfect Holineſs; leaving us an Example.

Q. 23. *What Doctrine did he preach?*

A. A true and excellent Doctrine concerning God, himſelf and another World.

Q. 24. *What Miracles did he work to confirm his Doctrine?*

A. He healed the Sick with a Word's ſpeaking, and raiſed the Dead, and caſt out Devils, and many other the like.

Q. 25. *What Death did he die?*

A. The curſed Death of the Croſs, to ſatisfy for our Sins, and to reconcile us to God.

Q. 26. *What became of him afer he was dead?*

A. He roſe again from the Dead on the third Day, and aſcended up into Heaven.

Q. 27. *Where is he now?*

A. He is at the right Hand of God, where

he

he ever lives, making Intercession for us, and hath all Power both in Heaven and in Earth.

Q. 28. *When will he come again?*

A. He will come again in Glory, at the last Day, to judge the World.

PART III. *Concerning Baptism and the Covenant of Grace.*

Q. 29. *WHAT Relation do you stand in to the Lord Jesus?*

A. I am one of his Disciples; for I am a baptized Christian.

Q. 30. *Into whose Name were you baptized?*

A. Into the Name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost.

Q. 31. *What was the Meaning of your being so baptized?*

A. I was thereby given up in a Covenant-way, to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Q. 32. *What is the Covenant which was signified and sealed in your Baptism?*

A. The Covenant of Grace made with us in Jesus Christ.

Q. 33. *What is the Sum of that Covenant?*

A. That God will be in Christ to us a God, and we must be to him a People.

Q. 34. *How then must you take the Lord for your God?*

A. I must take God the Father for my chief Good, and highest End, God the Son for my Prince and Saviour, and God the Holy

Holy Ghoſt for my Sanctifier, Teacher, Guide, and Comforter.

Q. 35. *How muſt you give up your ſelf to him to be one of his People?*

A. I muſt deny all Ungodlineſs, and worldly fleſhly Luſts, and muſt reſolve to live ſoberly, righteouſly and godly in this preſent World, looking for the bleſſed Hope.

Q. 36. *What are the three great Bleſſings promiſed in this Covenant?*

A. The Pardon of Sin, the Gift of the Holy Ghoſt, and eternal Life.

Q. 37. *What are the two great Conditions of this Covenant?*

A. Repentance towards God, and Faith towards our Lord Jeſus Chriſt.

Q. 38. *What is it to repent of our Sins?*

A. It is to be ſorry that I have offended God, in what I have done amiſs, and to do ſo no more.

Q. 39. *What is it to believe in Jeſus Chriſt?*

A. It is to receive him, and rely upon him as my Prophet, Prieſt and King, and to give up myſelf to be ruled, and taught, and ſaved by him.

PART IV. *Concerning our Duty to God, ourſelves and our Neighbours.*

Q. 40. *How muſt you evidence the Sincerity of your Faith and Repentance?*

A. By

A. By a diligent and conſcientious Obedience to all God's Commandments.

Q. 41. *What is the firſt and great Commandment?*

A. To love God with all my Heart.

Q. 42. *What is the ſecond, which is like unto it?*

A. To love my Neighbour as myſelf, and to ſhew it, by doing as I would be done by.

Q. 43. *What is the Honour you owe to God's Name?*

A. I muſt never take his Name in vain, but muſt always make mention of it with Reverence and Seriouſneſs.

Q. 44. *What is the Honour you owe to God's Word?*

A. I muſt read it and hear it with Diligence and Attention; I muſt meditate upon it, believe it, and frame my Life according to it.

Q. 45. *What is the Honour you owe to God in his Providence?*

A. I muſt receive all his Mercies with Thankfulneſs, and I muſt bear all Afflictions with Patience, and Submiſſion to his Holy Will.

Q. 46. *What is the Honour you owe to the Lord's Day?*

A. I muſt keep the Sabbath holy to God, by a diligent Performance of the religious Duties of the Day, both publick and private not ſpeaking my own Words, nor doing my own Works on that Day.

Q. 47. *How muſt you honour God in Prayer?*

A. I muſt every Day, by ſolemn Prayer, ſeek the Favour of God, and give unto him the Glory due unto his Name.

Q. 48. *In*

Q. 48. *In whose Name must you pray?*

A. In the Name of Jesus Christ only.

Q. 49. *What must you pray for?*

A. For Mercy to pardon, and Grace to help in Time of Need.

Q. 50. *What else must you do in your Prayers?*

A. I must confess my Sins, and give God Praise for his Goodness to me.

Q. 51. *What must be your daily Care concerning your own Soul?*

A. I must take Care that my Heart be not lifted up with Pride; nor disturbed with Anger, or any sinful Passion.

Q. 52. *What must be your Care concerning your Body?*

A. I must take Care that it be not defiled by Intemperance, Uncleanness, or any fleshly Lusts.

Q. 53. *What must be your Care concerning your words?*

A. I must never tell a Lie, nor mock at any Body, nor call foul Names, nor speak any filthy Words.

Q. 54. *What is your Duty to your Parents and Governours?*

A. I must reverence and obey them in the Lord, I must thankfully receive their Instructions, and submit to their Rebukes, and labour in every Thing to be a Comfort to them.

Q. 55. *What is your Duty to the Poor?*

A. I must pity, help and relieve them, according to my Ability.

Q. 56. *What is your Duty to all Men?*

A. I must render to all their Dues; I must

must be honeſt and Juſt in all my Dealings; I muſt be reſpectful to my Friends, and forgive my Enemies, and ſpeak Evil of no Man.

Q. 57. *How are you able to perform this Duty?*

A. Not in any Strength of my own, but in the Strength of the Grace of Jeſus Chriſt, which I muſt ask of God for his Sake.

Q. 58. *What muſt you do, when you find you come ſhort of this Duty?*

A. I muſt renew my Repentance, and pray to God for Pardon in the Blood of Chriſt, and be careful to do my Duty better for the Time to come.

Q. 59. *What Encouragement have you thus to live in the Fear of God?*

A. If I do ſo, I ſhall certainly be happy both in this World, and in that to come.

PART V. *Concerning the future State.*

Q. 60 *WHAT will become of you ſhortly?*

A. I muſt ſhortly die and leave this World.

Q. 61. *What becomes of the Body at Death?*

A. It returns to the Earth to be raiſed to Life again at the Day of Judgment.

Q. 62. *What becomes of the Soul then?*

A. It returns to God who gave it, to be determined to an unchangeable State, according to what was done in the Body.

Q. 63. *What*

Q. 63. *What ſhall be the Portion of the wicked and ungodly in the other world?*

A. They ſhall all go to Hell.

Q. 64. *What is Hell?*

A. It is a State of everlaſting Miſery and Torment, in the Lake that burns with Fire and Brimſtone.

Q. 65. *What ſhall be the Portion of the godly in the other World?*

A. They ſhall go to Heaven.

Q. 66. *What is Heaven?*

A. It is a State of everlaſting Reſt and Joy with God and Jeſus Chriſt.

Q. 67. *What Life then will ye reſolve to live in this World?*

A. God's Grace enabling me, I will live a holy, godly Life, and make it my great Care and Buſineſs to ſerve God, and ſave my Soul.

A Short CATECHISM *for the Inſtruction of thoſe that are to be admitted to the Lord's Supper.*

Q. 1. *WHAT is the Lord's Supper?*

A. It is a Sacrament of the New Teſtament.

Q. 2. *Who ordained this Sacrament?*

A. Our Lord Jeſus in the Night wherein he was betrayed.

Q. 3. *What are the outward Signs in this Sacrament?*

A. Giving

A. Giving and receiving of Bread and Wine, and eating and drinking of them in a ſolemn and religious Manner.

Q. 4. *What doth the Bread broken ſignify and repreſent to us?*

A. The broken Body of our Lord Jeſus, which was crucified for us.

Q. 5. *What doth the Wine ſignify?*

A. The precious Blood of Chriſt, which was ſhed for us upon the Croſs.

Q. 6. *What doth the Miniſter's giving the Bread and Wine ſignify?*

A. The gracious Offer that is made us in the Goſpel of Chriſt, and all his Benefits, upon the Terms of Faith and Repentance, and new Obedience.

Q. 7. *What doth the receiving of the Bread and Wine ſignify?*

A. Our hearty Acceptance of Chriſt, as he is offered to us in the Goſpel, and our Compliance with the Terms of that Offer.

Q. 8. *What doth the eating of the Bread, and drinking of the Wine ſignify?*

A. The Satisfaction we take in Chriſt and his Goſpel, and the Nouriſhment of our Souls thereby through Faith.

Q. 9. *Why did Chriſt ordain this Sacrament?*

A. To be a Memorial of his Death till he come; for he ſaid, "Do this in Remembrance of me."

Q. 10. *What more is there in this Sacrament?*

A. It is a Seal of the Covenant of Grace, ſtrongly aſſuring us, that God is willing in Chriſt to be to us a God, and ſtrongly engaging us to be to him a People.

Q. 11. *What*

Q. 11. *Why would you be admitted to this ſolemn Ordi-*
nance?

A. Becauſe I deſire to take the Covenant of my Baptiſm upon myſelf, and to make it my own Act and Deed, to join myſelf unto the Lord.

Q. 12. *What do you think of that Covenant which is here ſealed?*

A. I think it is well ordered in all Things, and ſure; and I do heartily conſent to it, and venture my Soul and my Salvation upon it.

Q. 13. *What do you think of Chriſt who is here ſet before you?*

A. I think he is a gracious and All-ſufficient Saviour, and I accept of him as my Lord and my God.

Q. 14. *What do you think of Sin?*

A. I think Sin to be the worſt of all Evils; and I do heartily repent of my Sin, and turn from it unto God.

Q. 15. *What do you think of this World?*

A. I think it is Vanity and Vexation of Spirit, and I will never ſet my Heart upon it.

Q. 16. *What do you think of the other World?*

A. I think the Things of another World are real, and great, and very near, and I would therefore give all Diligence to prepare for that World.

Q. 17. *What do you think of a religious Life?*

A. I think that a holy, heavenly Life, ſpent in the Service of God, and in Communion with him, is the moſt pleaſant and comfortable Life a Man can live in this World.

Q. 18. *Will*

Q. 18. *Will you then live such a Life?*

A. By the Grace of God I will, and with Purpose of Heart cleave to the Lord.

Q. 19 *What Communion do you desire to have with the Church of Christ?*

A. By Faith, Hope and Love, I desire to maintain a spiritual Communion with all that in every Place call on the Name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Q. 20. *What must you do in your Preparation for the Lord's Supper?*

A. I must examine myself.

Q. 21. *How must you examine yourself about your spiritual State?*

A. I must seriously enquire whether I do in Sincerity consent to the Covenant of Grace, and whether I be indeed born again.

Q. 22. *What will be an Evidence that your spiritual State is bad?*

A. If I live a vain and careless Life, loving the World more than God, and minding the Things of the Flesh more than the Things of the Spirit, and allowing myself in any known Sin, I have Reason to conclude, that whatever Profession I make, my spiritual State is bad.

Q. 23. *What will be an Evidence that your spiritual State is good?*

A. If I be heartily concerned about my Soul and Eternity, and carefully seek the Favour of God through Christ; if I strive against Sin; make Conscience of my Word and Ways, and have Respect to all God's

Command

Commandments, I have Reaſon to hope, that, notwithſtanding my daily Infirmities, my ſpiritual State is good.

Q. 24. *How muſt you examine your Conſcience about your particular Actions?*

A. I muſt ſolemnly reflect upon what I have done amiſs in Thought, Word and Deed, and muſt humbly confeſs it before God, and judge myſelf for it.

Q. 25. *What elſe muſt you do in your Preparation for the Lord's Supper?*

A. I muſt earneſtly pray to God for his Spirit and Grace: I muſt meditate much upon the Love of Chriſt in dying for me; and I muſt be in Charity with all Men.

Q. 26. *After what Manner muſt you receive this Sacrament?*

A. With humble Reverence and Seriouſneſs, with Sorrow for Sin, and Hatred of it; with Faith in Chriſt, and the lively Workings of pious and devout Affections towards him.

Q. 27. *What muſt you do after you have received this Sacrament?*

A. I muſt walk chearfully with God in all holy Converſation, and never return again to Folly.

Q. 28. *Who are they that receive this Sacrament unworthily?*

A. They that continue in Love and League with Sin, while they pretend to covenant with God.

Q. 29. *What is the Miſery of thoſe that do ſo?*

A. They

A. They eat and drink Judgment to them
ſelveſs, not diſcerning the Lord's Body.

Q. 30. *Who ſhall be welcome to this Ordinance?*

A. They that by Faith cordially conſent t
the Covenant of Grace, and do Honour t
their Redeemer, by ſhewing forth his Death

Q. 31. *What Benefit do they receive by it that du
improve it?*

A. Their Faith is thereby ſtrengthened
their Reſolutions are confirmed, their Com-
forts are increaſed, and they have an Earneſ
of the everlaſting Feaſt.

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